THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Government have seen the report of the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) that China is assisting Pakistan to develop nuclear explosives. We have no confirmed reports suggesting that China is transferring Biological Warfare Technology to Pakistan. Both China and Pakistan are States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention which prohibits production, possession, deployment, use, transfer and acquisition of biological weapons. Government have made known to the Chinese side some of our security concerns. Our views on disarmament and proliferation of nuclear weapons, including concerns on external assistance in enhancement of Pakistan's military capabilities are known to the Chinese.

FPO Licences to Pepsico India Holdings

*286. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:
SHRI S. AUSTIN:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have granted Seven FPO licences to Pepsico India Holdings; and

(b) whether Pepsico India Holdings own bottling plants in its own name; if not, the basis on which FPO licences were granted to Pepsico India Holdings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) M/s. Pepsico India Holding have been granted 7 manufacturing licences for sweetened carbonated beverages for their 7 soft drink bottling plants located in different places of the country under Fruit Products Order, 1955 (FPO). In addition, M/s. Pepsico India Holding have also been given one Re-labeller licence under FPO.

Declaration of State Roads as National Highways

*287. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposal submitted before his Ministry by different State Government for declaring State Roads as National Highways;

(b) the action initiated by his Ministry to implement those proposals; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Various State Governments have forwarded about 134 proposals aggregating to a length of about 38,700 Km. for declaration of State Roads as National Highways during the 8th Five Year Plan.

(b) and (c). A length of 369 Km. has been declared as National Highway during the 8th Five Year Plan so far. However, owing to the limited availability of funds for National highways, it may not be possible to declare any other road in the country as a National Highway at this stage.

Telephone Connections under the Privatisation Programme of MTNL

*288. SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to certain advertisements indicating telephone connections available on demand for Rupees 2,500/-only under privatisation programme of M.T.N.L.;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme with formalities and eligibilities required to get such connections;

(c) whether provision of Telephone connections under the scheme will privide some benefits to subscribers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the scheme is approved and guaranteed by Government; and

(f) if so, details thereof and if not, what action is taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir. An advertisement in the name of M/s. Turrant Sanchar India Ltd. has appeared recently in some newspapers offering telephone connections, on demand, in Delhi for Rs. 2500/- under the privatisation programme of M.T.N.L.

(b) There is no scheme for provision of telephone connections on demand in Delhi for Rs. 2500/- as claimed by the advertiser. However, there is a scheme of providing telephone connections from Direct Inward Dialling EPABXs under franchise scheme. Under this scheme, telephone connections can be provided, only in multi storeyed (4 storeyed and above) buildings within 500 m. of location of EPABX and from separate EPABX in private compounds enclosed by a fence or a wall and through which no public roads pass. From the extension users a security deposit of Rs. 2500/- and a monthly rental upto Rs. 100/- is charged.

(c) The scheme as advertised by the firm does not exist.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of reply at (c) above.

(f) A public notice clarifying the position of M.T.N.L. *vis-a-vis* M/s. Turrant Sanchar India Ltd. has been issued on 14.7.95. Further, the matter is subjudice as one of the applicants to the advertised scheme has filed a suit against the advertiser before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi.

Establishment of a Separate Statutory Development Board for Konkan

*289. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: SHRI SHIVAJIRAO GIRIDHAR PATIL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra had requested the Central Government for establishment of a separate Development Board for Konkan by amending the Constitution;

(b) whether Government are also aware of the fact that Maharashtra State Legislature had passed a unanimous Resolution on this issue; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Central Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) to (c) Discussions on the issue have been held recently between the Home Minister and the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. As various legal and constitutional complexities are involved in the issue, it would not be possible to lay down a definite time-frame to finalise this issue.

Allocation of Match-Wax

*290. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria followed by the Ministry regarding allocation of Match-Wax to different States;

(b) whether any Match-Wax has been released to the State of Haryana in the last three years; if so, what quantities and on what basis; and

(c) by when the present demand of the State of Haryana for a regular supply of Match-Wax is likely to be met and what shall be the quantities for the forthcoming quarters of this year and next year?